

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-08 L-03 HA-05 PRS-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7895

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2235

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT EGEN UR US

SUBJECT: SOVIETS REFUSE EMBOFFS VISITS TO MAGNITOGORSK AND
KARAGANDA

REF: (A) STATE 37986, (B) MOSCOW 563(NOTAL)

1. MFA PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT INFORMED EMBASSY AFTERNOON OF
FEBRUARY 14 THAT REQUEST FOR FEBRUARY 15-18 VISIT TO
MAGNITOGORSK BY PLOCOUNSELOR AND BRITISH FIRST SECRETARY
DOUGLAS MARTIN WAS REFUSED FOR "REASONS OF A TEMPORARY
NATURE" (NOTWITHSTANDING FACT THAT UPDK HAD SAME DAY
ISSUED PLANE TICKETS). AT SAME TIME, PROTOCOL ALSO TURNED
DOWN PROPOSED TRIP BY EMBOFFS SONTAG AND BYSNES TO
KARAGANDA, GIVING SAME REASON. (NOTE: THESE WERE FIRST TWO
EMBASSY REQUESTS FOR VISITS TO CITIES INCLUDED IN SOVIET
REVISED OPEN AREAS LIST REPORTED REFTEL B).

2. IN FEBRUARY 14 CALL ON DEPUTY CHIEF OF MFA'S USA
DIVISION FEDOSEYEV, POLCOUNSELOR ORALLY PROTESTED ARBI-
TRARY MANNER IN WHICH SOVIETS HAVING OPENED UP THESE
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CITIES DENIED FIRST TWO REQUESTS FOR U.S. EMBOFF TRAVEL.
NOTING SOME SOVIET OFFICIALS (E.G. MFA PROTOCOL OFFICER)
HAD BEEN INFORMALLY ASKING US WHETHER U.S. WOULD
RECIPROCATATE RECENT SOVEIT TRAVEL RELAXATIONS, POLCOUNSELOR
SAID ONLY RESPONSE HE COULD NOTE AT THIS JUNCTURE WAS
THAT THESE TWO ARBITRARY REFUSALS OF TRAVEL REQUESTS WOULD
BE PROMPTLY REPORTED TO WASHINGTON FOR IST CONSIDERATION.

3. FEDOSEYEV REPLIED LAMELY THAT HE WAS SORRY HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO CHANGE THE DECISION RE MAGNITOGORSK. AS HE HAD NOTED IN FEBRUARY 13 CONVERSATION, FEDOSEYEV SAID THAT MAGNITOGORSK GORKOM FIRST SECRETARY ("AND ANOTHER MAN") WERE IN OR ENROUTE TO MOSCOW BUT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE MATTER. IN CLOSING FEDOSEYEV SAID THAT MAYBE WE WOULD HAVE BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME. NOTETAKER SINITSYN ADDED IT WOULD HELP IF REQUESTS FOR TRAVEL TO NEWLY OPENED AREAS WERE SENT TO MFA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. (NOTE SONTAG AND BYRNES REQUEST FOR FEBRUARY 17 TRIP TO KARAGANDA WAS SENT MFA FEBRUARY 7. POLCOONSELOR HAD INFORMALLY ADVISED FEDOSEYEV OF MAGNITOGORSK PLANS FEBRUARY 9 AND HAND DELIVERED LETTER FEBRUARY 10).

4. NOTIFIED OF ORU ORAL PROTEST BRITISH HEAD OF CHANCERY SAID HE WOULD FOLLOW UP SIMILARLY.

5. RECOMMEND SWIFT HARD RETALIATIONS BY DEPARTMENT.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

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